

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9869

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USNATO 551

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND NATO

REF: A. STATE 022619

B. ATHENS 835

C. STATE 020588

1. AMBASSADOR BRUCE CALLED UPON GREEK PERMREP THEODORPOPOULOS THIS AFTERNOON (JANUARY 31) TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA 1 REF C IN THE LIGHT OF THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE MORE RECENT EXCHANGE BETWEEN ATHENS AND THE DEPARTMENT (REFS A AND B). THEODORPOPOULOS WAS LARGELY WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS BUT IN VIEW OF THE INFORMATION BRUCE CONVEYED TO HIM HE AGREED THAT BOTH AMBASSADORS SHOULD JOINTLY INFORM SYG LUNS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WOULD PROBABLY SOON BE MADE IN ATHENS.

2. IN THE 15 MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN THIS JOINT MEETING AND THEIR SCHEDULED CALL ON LUNS, THEODORPOPOULOS WAS IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH ATHENS.

3. WHEN THEY MET JOINTLY WITH THE SYG, THEODORPOPOULOS TOOK THE LEAD IN INFORMING LUNS THAT THE USG AND GOG HAVE AGREED TO START ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 10 EXPLORATORY TALKS ON THE SUBJECT OF THEIR VARIOUS BILATERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. THEODORPOPOULOS CONTINUED SAYING THE TWO GOVERNMENTS INTEND, JOINTLY, TO KEEP THE SYG AND THE ALLIES INFORMED ABOUT THE
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COURSE OF THESE GREEK/U.S. BILATERAL TALKS. THIS WAS MORE OR LESS EXACTLY THE STATEMENT THEODORPOPOULOS AND BRUCE HAD AGREED UPON IN ADVANCE WHEN THERE WAS THE PROSPECT THAT A GREEK PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE MADE BY BITSIOS AT HIS FEBRUARY

1 PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. THEODOROPOULOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS JUST CONCLUDED TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ATHENS HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE GOG WILL NOT MAKE ITS ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF GREEK/U.S. TALKS TOMORROW, BUT RATHER WILL DO SO "THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK." LUNS, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR AND BRUCE THEN AGREED THEY WOULD INFORM OTHER ALLIES ABOUT THIS MATTER AT THE PERMREPS LUNCH ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

5. AFTER THEODOROPOULOS DEPARTED, LUNS AND BRUCE TALKED ABOUT A NUMBER OF OTHER SUBJECTS, THEN RETURNED TO THIS ONE. BRUCE THEN CARRIED OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA 2 OF REF C. LUNS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS ASSURANCE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD SEEN THEODOROPOULOS EARLIER IN THE WEEK HE WAS TOLD THAT ATHENS INTENDS TO DEAL WITH THE U.S./GREEK BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BEFORE MAKING ANY SUBSTANTIAL MOVE IN THE GREEK/NATO RELATIONSHIP.
BRUCE

SECRET

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